

LEGAL TEXT OF PROPOSITION F

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

SECTION 1. Title.

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Neighborhood Firehouse Protection Act."

SECTION 2. Findings and Purpose.

a) Fire safety, emergency assistance, and ambulances are essential services that should not be cut.

b) Since 1985, the percentage of the city budget devoted to funding for fire safety and emergency services has declined significantly. Since 1970, the number of emergency calls the Fire Department responds to has tripled while the number of fire fighters on duty has dropped by over 25 percent.

c) As a result of budget cuts, the Fire Department currently does not staff emergency fire apparatus such as fire engines, ladder trucks and ambulances at neighborhood firehouses on a rotating basis. These "brownouts" pose a serious threat to the health and safety of those neighborhoods, and to all city residents.

d) If a major disaster were to strike the City and County of San Francisco, such as a terrorist attack or powerful earthquake, the Fire Department would not be able to respond properly. This initiative will guarantee that our neighborhood firehouses remain open and contain the necessary equipment to meet any such disaster.

e) This initiative requires that all existing neighborhood firehouses remain open, that they be staffed at least at the minimum level required for safety, and that they have sufficient equipment to deal with all emergencies. A neighborhood firehouse could only be closed for unsafe structural conditions and only with the approval of the Fire Commission and the Board of Supervisors, and adequate services would have to be restored to that neighborhood as soon as possible.

f) This initiative also requires that a minimum number of ambulances and medical supervisors be maintained 24 hours per day.

SECTION 3. New Administrative Code Section 2A.97. Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Section 2A.97 is added to Article V of Chapter 2A of the San Francisco Administrative Code, to read as follows:

SECTION 2A.97. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Fire Department shall maintain and operate neighborhood firehouses and emergency apparatus at the same location and to the same extent as existed on January 1, 2004, as is listed below.

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Stations	Location	Emergency Apparatus	Neighborhoods Served
Station 1	676 Howard	Engine/Truck/Rescue Squad	Downtown, Tenderloin, SoMa
Station 2	1340 Powell	Engine/Truck/Battalion	Chinatown, North Beach, Nob Hill
Station 3	1067 Post	Engine/Truck	Tenderloin, SoMa, Civic Center, Polk Gulch
Station 5	1301 Turk	Engine/Truck/Division	Fillmore, Western Addition, Japantown
Station 6	135 Sanchez	Engine/Truck	Castro, Lower Haight, Mission, Duboce Triangle
Station 7	2300 Folsom	Engine/Truck/Rescue Squad/Division	Mission District, Bernal Heights
Station 8	36 Bluxome	Engine/Truck/Battalion	SoMa, South Beach, Mission Bay
Station 9	2245 Jerrold	Engine/Truck/Battalion	Potrero Hill, Bernal Heights
Station 10	655 Presidio	Engine/Truck	Presidio Heights, Laurel Heights, Western Addition
Station 11	3880 26th Street	Engine/Truck/Battalion	Noe Valley, Mission District, Castro
Station 12	1145 Stanyan	Engine/Truck	Haight Ashbury, Cole Valley
Station 13	530 Sansome	Engine/Truck	Financial District, North Beach, Chinatown
Station 14	551 26th Avenue	Engine/Truck	Richmond, Presidio
Station 15	1000 Ocean	Engine/Truck/Battalion	Ingleside
Station 16	2251 Greenwich	Engine/Truck	Marina, Cow Hollow, Presidio
Station 17	1295 Shafter	Engine/Truck	Bayview/Hunters Point
Station 18	1933 32nd Avenue	Engine/Truck	Sunset
Station 19	390 Buckingham	Engine/Truck	Park Merced, Stonestown, Lake Merced
Station 20	285 Olympia	Engine/Mobile Air Unit	Forest Hill, Inner Sunset
Station 21	1443 Grove	Engine	Fillmore, Western Addition, Haight
Station 22	1290 16th Avenue	Engine	Inner Sunset
Station 23	1348 45th Avenue	Engine	Sunset
Station 24	100 Hoffman	Engine	Noe Valley, Castro, Twin Peaks
Station 25	3305 3rd Street	Engine	Potrero Hill, Bayview/Hunters Point
Station 26	80 Digby	Engine	Glen Park, Diamond Heights
Station 28	1814 Stockton	Engine	North Beach, Telegraph Hill
Station 29	299 Vermont	Engine	Potrero Hill, Mission District
Station 31	441 12th Avenue	Engine/Battalion	Richmond
Station 32	194 Park	Engine	Bernal Heights, Mission District
Station 33	8 Capitol	Engine	OceanView, Merced Heights
Station 34	499 41st Avenue	Engine	Outer Richmond
Station 35	Pier 22 1/2	Engine/Fireboat	Embarcadero, Downtown, South Beach
Station 36	109 Oak Street	Engine/Battalion	Civic Center, Hayes Valley
Station 37	798 Wisconsin	Engine	Potrero Hill, Dog Patch
Station 38	2150 California	Engine/Battalion	Pacific Heights, Marina, Upper Fillmore
Station 39	1091 Portola	Engine	Miraloma, St. Francis Wood, West Portal
Station 40	2155 18th Avenue	Engine/Battalion	Parkside, Forest Hill
Station 41	1325 Leavenworth	Engine	Russian Hill, Nob Hill
Station 42	2430 San Bruno Avenue	Engine	Portola, Silver Terrace
Station 43	720 Moscow	Engine	Excelsior, Outer Mission, Crocker Amazon
Station 44	1298 Girard	Engine	Visitacion Valley, Sunnydale
Station 48	Treasure Island	Engine/Truck/Hose Tender	Treasure Island

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Each such firehouse shall remain open 24 hours a day, and the emergency apparatus located at each firehouse shall be adequately staffed so as to be able to respond to a fire, medical or other emergency 24 hours a day. The Fire Department shall not close, abandon or consolidate any existing firehouse, or provide a level of service at that firehouse or for the apparatus within that firehouse, lower than that existing as of January 1, 2004, except as specified below.

In addition to the apparatus housed within each neighborhood firehouse as of January 1, 2004, as listed above, the Fire Department shall maintain and operate 24 hours per day the following: an arson/fire investigation unit; no fewer than four ambulances; and four Rescue Captains (medical supervisors). The Chief of the Department shall determine which station will house those units.

The Fire Department, with the concurrence of the Fire Commission and subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors, may establish such additional firehouses as it deems necessary to meet the safety needs of the residents of the City and County of San Francisco. The Fire Department may relocate apparatus from one neighborhood firehouse to another only if the Chief, with the concurrence of the Fire Commission and approval by the Board of Supervisors, declares doing so is necessary to meet the safety needs of the citizenry and will not prevent servicing that neighborhood 24 hours a day. In no event may the Fire Department remove apparatus from a neighborhood firehouse if doing so prevents that firehouse from responding to fires and medical emergency calls from that location 24 hours a day.

A neighborhood firehouse listed above may be closed only for unsafe structural conditions, or if necessary to retrofit or renovate the building, or if it has been replaced by a new firehouse in that same neighborhood. Such closure must be recommended by the Fire Department, concurred in by the Fire Commission, and approved by the Board of Supervisors, and must be accompanied by a detailed plan for restoring adequate services to the neighborhood served by that firehouse as soon as possible.

Nothing in this section shall prevent the Fire Department from temporarily closing a firehouse and moving the apparatus within it if that firehouse poses an immediate danger to public safety, provided that the Department shall seek the concurrence of the Fire Commission and the approval of the Board of Supervisors as soon as is reasonably possible.

Nothing in this provision shall diminish, interfere with or otherwise alter the Mayor's authority under Article III, section 3.100(13) of the Charter.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

The provisions of this ordinance shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

SECTION 5. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other provisions or applications of this charter amendment that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision of application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION 6. Amendments.

The provisions of this initiative, once enacted, may not be amended except by another initiative measure.

